MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C., APRIL 28, 1922.

The sixth meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1922 was held in its office at 1729 New York Avenue, northwest, Washington, D. C., Friday, April 28, 1922.

The following members were present:

Mr. Moore, Chairman;
Mr. Greenleaf;
Mr. Fraser;
Mr. Bacon;
Mr. Ayres;
Mr. Mowbray;

also Lieut. Colonel C. O. Sherrill, Secretary and Executive Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: The minutes of the meeting held March 31, 1922, were approved.

2. SUCCESSOR TO JOHN RUSSELL POPE: The Commission unanimously agreed to recommend to the President the appointment of Mr. Milton Bennett Medary, Jr., architect, of Philadelphia, to succeed Mr. John Russell Pope, whose term of office has expired.

3. SITE FOR THE STATUE OF EDMUND BURKE: Colonel Sherrill requested the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts with reference to the site for the statue of Edmund Burke, saying that the triangle at Eighteenth and B Streets, northwest, has been proposed as a place for the statue. In the discussion of the subject the Commission noted that this triangle proposed as a site for the statue is in the rear of the Pan American Building, and questioned the advisability of placing this statue there. Mr. Moore suggested a site on Massachusetts Avenue where he said there are many tri-

angles and on some of which statues should be placed in view of the importance of the avenue. The Commission concurred in the suggestion and recommended that a triangle along Massachusetts Avenue be selected for the statue of Edmund Burke, and that the statue be placed so as to center on the avenue rather than have the statue point to the corners of the triangle.

4. FLAG POLE, EASTERN HIGH SCHOOL: The Commission approved a detailed drawing submitted by Miss Kathryn Harris of the flag pole for the Eastern High School. (Exhibit A).

5. NUNS OF THE BATTLEFIELD MONUMENT: Mr. Connor submitted a half-inch scale model of the ground plan for the Nuns of the Battlefield Monument. The model showed the approach at the front of the monument, but the Commission decided to revert to the former plan of having the approaches at the sides of the monument. A number of suggestions were made to the sculptor, including suggestions as to planting, which were embodied in a letter to Mr. Connor. (Exhibit B).

6. MONUMENT FOR DES MOINES: Mr. R. B. Sherriff, of Des Moines, Iowa, submitted a design by Mr. Pompeo Coppini of Chicago for a monument for Des Moines, Iowa. Having no jurisdiction in the matter, the Commission suggested that the sketch be returned.

7. RELOCATION OF BARTHOLDI FOUNTAIN: Mrs. John B. Henderson requested that the Commission approve the relocation of the Bartholdi fountain in the circle at the intersection of Columbia Road, Harvard and Mount Pleasant Streets on Sixteenth Street. The Commission made an inspection of the site and felt that it would be inappropriate to place the fountain in that circle, as it was not thought large enough, and in view of the

slope of this area to the northwest the Commission thought it would require a considerable expenditure of money to establish a proper grade. The Commission recommended the removal of the fountain to Grant Circle which is level and of adequate size for the fountain. (Exhibit C).

8. STATUE OF A BASEBALL PLAYER: Mr. Moore reported having received a letter from Mr. B. B. Johnson, President, of the American League of Baseball Clubs, expressing his interest in the erection of a statue to a Baseball Player and asking the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts in the matter. Mr. Moore said that Mr. Johnson was not concerned about the cost so long as the statue would be a fitting tribute to the baseball player. The Commission endorsed the project, suggesting a site in East Potomac Park for the statue, and recommended that the accepted design be secured through an open competition. (Exhibit D).

9. NATIONAL CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC: Under date of April 13, 1922, Mr. Moore received the following letter from Hon. John W. Langley, Chairman of the House Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds:

> "The House Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds would appreciate your furnishing it with the recommendation of your Commission with regard to H. R. 11243, a bill to designate a building site for the National Conservatory of Music of America. A copy of the bill is inclosed herewith for your information."

The Commission recommended that a report in the matter be held in abeyance until Mr. Moore and Colonel Sherrill obtained further information with regard to the project.

10. MISSOURI WAR MEMORIAL: Under date of April 18, 1922, the Commission received the following letter from Colonel George H. Penrose, Chief of the Graves Registration Service, asking the advice of the Commission in

the matter of a monument which the State of Missouri proposes to erect in the American Cemetery at Romagne:

> "Enclosed herewith are copies of letters and plans in reference to proposed monument to Missouri, for which this office has been requested to grant a location in the American Cemetery at Romagne.
>
> From the correspondence you will note that this office has endeavored to obtain more definite information as to designs and inscriptions, but has obtained only those illustrations that are herewith enclosed.
>
> It is requested that your Commission consider the proposed monument in relation to the plans for the Cemetery, and submit to this office a definite recommendation as to the policy which shall govern the placing of such a monument, and also as to the disposition recommended for the particular case in question."

The Commission gave the matter very careful consideration. In the discussion of the subject it was shown that a number of organizations throughout the United States are planning to erect war memorials in France, and the Commission felt that unless some stringent action is taken to bring this matter in control there is danger lest in the course of time monuments will be erected on the battlefields of France which will not be works of art.

Colonel Sherrill called attention to the legislation now pending in Congress, H. R. 10737, which has the approval of the Secretary of War and proposes to create a Battle Monuments Commission of which the Secretary of War will be Chairman, and which is to have supervision of the erection of monuments on the battlefields of Europe. The Bill provides that all designs must be submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts. The Commission felt that the enactment of this legislation would bring the problem in proper control, and pending the enactment of this Bill into law the Commission decided to withhold action with reference to the Missouri State War Memorial. (Exhibit E).

11. AMERICAN CEMETERIES IN FRANCE: Major George Gibbs, Jr., Landscape Architect, of the Graves Registration Service, appeared before the Commission and reported that orders had been given by the War Department to begin the purchase of the land for the permanent American Cemeteries in France, and that within the past few days the War Department had decided to acquire the additional land desired opposite the main entrance at Suresnes. Major Gibbs said the plans of the Commission of Fine Arts for these cemeteries will be for the most part carried out as designed. Major Gibbs submitted various designs for buildings for these cemeteries, among them several which had been revised in accordance with previous suggestions of the Commission. The Commission felt that all of the work in connection with the development of the cemeteries was of great importance and suggested that the Quartermaster General appoint Nathan C. Wyeth, architect, who is now in Europe, for the work. (Exhibit F).

In the afternoon the Commission visited Arlington National Cemetery with a view to inspecting the site for a flag pole which it is proposed to erect to the south of the Amphitheater, in place of the one in front of the Mansion. Mr. Moore stated that the flag pole is to be a memorial flag pole, for which a sum of $4,000. has been given, and that Mr. Thomas Hastings, the architect of the Amphitheater, is designing the flag pole. The Commission then made a careful study of the problem of adequate approaches to the Amphitheater, a revision of the driveways having become necessary since the tomb of the Unknown Soldier has been placed in front of the Amphitheater. The Commission recommended that a detailed design be made.

C O P Y

May 1, 1922.

Dear Miss Harris:

I have to inform you that the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting April 28, 1922, approved your design of the flag pole for the Eastern High School.

Sincerely, yours,

/s/ C. O. Sherrill

Lieut. Colonel, Corps of Engineers,

Secretary and Executive Officer.

Miss Kathryn Harris,

728 Seventeenth Street, N.W.,

Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT A.

C O P Y

May 2, 1922.

Dear Mr. Connor:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting April 28, 1922, considered your model for the ground plan of the Nuns of the Battlefield Monument, and have to report to you as follows:

The Commission observed that the model conformed to the recommendation made at their meeting on November 11, 1921, that the approach be arranged so that the steps would center on the monument. However, upon seeing your model the Commission felt that to arrange the approach in this manner would cause an unfortunate break in the planting scheme of the site. The Commission therefore decided to revert to the former plan for the approach to have steps (to be about 4' wide with 2' treads) lead to the monument from the sidewalk on each side of the monument, as indicated on the attached sketch, with a pebble pavement around the base of the monument. By moving the monument further west, it does not seem that additional land will have to be acquired at the rear of the monument. Group planting with a connecting hedge is suggested for the space in front of the monument, as indicated on the attached sketch. It will be agreeable to the Commission to have the finish of the granite of the monument the same as the Von Steuben monument.

The Commission will be pleased to have you resubmit a model embodying these recommendations. Also, the Commission desire to have you submit for inspection by them at the site at their next meeting May 31, 1922, a full size solar print of the monument, as previously recommended, to determine the final scale of the monument.

Sincerely, yours,

/s/ C. O. Sherrill

Lieut. Colonel, Corps of Engineers,

Secretary and Executive Officer.

Jerome Connor, Esq.,

322 North Carolina Avenue, S.E.,

Washington, D. C.

AMBI B.

C O P Y

May 4, 1922.

My dear Mrs. Henderson:

The Commission of Fine Arts have visited the Reservation at Sixteenth and Harvard Streets, and after a very careful examination regret extremely that they cannot recommend the removal of the Bartholdi Fountain to that site.

Very sincerely, yours,

/s/ C. O. Sherrill

Lieut. Colonel, Corps of Engineers,

Secretary and Executive Officer.

Mrs. John B. Henderson,

16th Street and Florida Avenue, N.W.,

Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT C.

C O P Y

May 4, 1922.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Your idea of a statue of a Baseball Player to be erected in Washington met with favor on the part of the National Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on April 28, 1922.

After discussion the members of the Commission decided that the best way to approach the subject would be through a Bill in Congress authorizing the erection of such a statue in connection with the development of a section of East Potomac Park as a great playground, with baseball diamonds, a football field, a stadium for the Army and Navy games, and other like features of sport.

In this case the statue would be of heroic proportions. It should be thoroughly representative of the American National Game. The best way to secure a design would be by an open competition, all sculptors in the United States being invited to send a small sketch, and from the preliminary sketches thus submitted to select three or five sculptors to enter a second competition in which leading sculptors who may not have competed should be asked to enter. Prizes should be awarded to the successful contestants in the open competition and payment should be made to those who enter the second stage of the competition. In this way the Commission believes that a work of art can be obtained, one that will do credit to the American League, and at the same time will be a delight to the American people.

Sincerely, yours,

/s/ C. O. Sherrill

Lieut. Colonel, Corps of Engineers,

Secretary and Executive Officer.

Mr. B. B. Johnson, President,
American League of Baseball Clubs,
1510 Fisher Building,
Chicago, Illinois.

EXHIBIT D.

C O P Y

May 5, 1922.

Dear Colonel Penrose:

In the matter of the Missouri War Memorial, the Commission of Fine Arts, after thorough discussion, decided that pending the passage of legislation governing the erection of War Memorials in the American Cemeteries in France, it is inadvisable to grant a permit to any State organization to erect such a memorial.

Sincerely, yours,

/s/ C. O. Sherrill

Lieut. Colonel, Corps of Engineers,

Secretary and Executive Officer.

Colonel George H. Penrose, Chief,

Graves Registration Service,

War Department.

EXHIBIT E.

C O P Y

May 3, 1922.

Dear General Rogers:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting April 28, 1922, gave further consideration to the designs for buildings for the permanent American Cemeteries in Europe. The Commission believe that the nature of some of this work is of such great importance that an architect should be employed by the Quartermaster General and assigned to the work. He should be a man experienced in the profession of architecture, who should do his work in France and visit the sites during the progress of the work.

The Commission recommend the employment of Mr. Nathan C. Wyeth, architect of the new Georgetown Bridge, who is now in Europe, and who is eminently fitted by training and experience for this work. He is a graduate of the Ecole des Beaux Arts, and his diploma authorizes him to practice his profession in France.

Sincerely, yours,

/s/ C. O. Sherrill
Lieut. Colonel, Corps of Engineers,
Secretary and Executive Officer.

Major General Harry L. Rogers,
The Quartermaster General,
War Department.

EXHIBIT F.